Numb. CCCXLI.

The SPECTATOR.

——Revocate animos mœstumque timorem
Mittite—— Virg.

Tuesday, April 1. 1712

HAVING, to oblige my Correſpondent *Phyſibulus*, Printed his Letter laſt *Friday*, in Relation to the New Epilogue, he cannot take it amiſs, if I now publiſh another, which I have juſt received from a Gentleman, who does not agree with him in his Sentiments upon that matter.

SIR,

'I Am amazed to find an Epilogue attacked in your laſt *Friday*'s Paper, which has been ſo generally applauded by the Town, and received ſuch Honours as were never before given to any in an *Engliſh* Theatre.

'The Audience would not permit Mrs. *Oldfield* to go off the Stage the Firſt Night, till ſhe had repeated it twice. The Second Night the Noiſe of *Encores* was as loud as before, and ſhe was again obliged to ſpeak it twice. The Third Night it was ſtill called for a Second time; and, in ſhort, contrary to all other Epilogues, which are dropp'd after the third Repreſentation of the Play, this has already been repeated nine times.

'I muſt own, I am the more ſurpriſed to find this Cenſure in Oppoſition to the whole Town, in a Paper which has hitherto been famous for the Candour of its Criticiſms.

'I can by no means allow your melancholy Correſpondent, that the new Epilogue is unnatural, becauſe it is gay. If I had a mind to be learned I could tell him, that the Prologue and Epilogue were real Parts of the ancient Tragedy; but every one knows that on the *Britiſh* Stage they are diſtinct Performances by themſelves, Pieces intirely detatched from the Play, and no way eſſential to it.

'The Moment the Play ends, Mrs. *Oldfield* is no more *Andromache*, but Mrs. *Oldfield*; and tho' the Poet had left *Andromache ſtone-dead upon the Stage*, as your ingenious Correſpondent phraſes it, Mrs. *Oldfield* might ſtill have ſpoke a merry Epilogue. We have an Inſtance of this in a Tragedy, where there is not only a Death, but a Martyrdom. St. *Catherine* was there perſonated by *Nell Gwin*, ſhe lies *Stone-dead upon the Stage*, but upon thoſe Gentlemens offering to remove her Body, whoſe buſineſs it is to carry off the Slain in our *Engliſh* Tragedies, ſhe breaks out into that abrupt beginning of what was a very ludicrous, but at the ſame time thought a very good Epilogue.

Hold, are you mad? you damn'd confounded Dog,
I am to riſe and ſpeak the Epilogue.

'This diverting manner was always practiſed by Mr. *Dryden*, who, if he was not the beſt Writer of Tragedies in his Time, was allowed by every one to have the happieſt Turn for a Prologue or an Epilogue. The Epilogues to *Cleomenes*, *Don Sebaſtian*, *The Duke of Guiſe*, *Aurenge Zebe*, and *Love Triumphant*, are all Preſidents of this nature.

'I might further juſtifie this Practice by that Excellent Epilogue which was ſpoken a few Years ſince, after the Tragedy of *Phædra* and *Hippolitus*; with a great many others, in which the Authors have endeavour'd to make the Audience merry. If they have not all ſucceeded ſo well as the Writer of this, they have, however, ſhewn that it was not for want of Good-will.

'I muſt further obſerve, that the Gayety of it may be ſtill the more proper, as it is at the End of a *French* Play; ſince every one knows that Nation, who are generally eſteemed to have as polite a Taſte as any in *Europe*, always cloſe their Tragic Entertainments with what they call a *Petite Piece*, which is purpoſely deſign'd to raiſe Mirth, and ſend away the Audience well pleaſed. The ſame Perſon, who has ſupported the chief Character in the Tragedy, very often plays the Principal Part in the *Petite Piece*, ſo that I have my ſelf ſeen at *Paris*, *Oreſtes* and *Lubin* acted the ſame Night by the ſame Man.

'Tragi-Comedy, indeed, you have your ſelf in in a former Speculation found fault with very juſtly, becauſe it breaks the Tide of the Paſſions while they are yet flowing; but this is nothing at all to the preſent Caſe, where they have already had their full Courſe.

'As the new Epilogue is written conformably to the Practice of our beſt Poets, ſo it is not ſuch an one which, as the Duke of *Buckingham* ſays in his *Rehearſal*, might ſerve for any other Play, but wholly riſes out of the Occurrences of the Piece it was Compoſed for.

'The only Reaſon your Mournful Correſpondent gives againſt this *facetious Epilogue*, as he calls it, is, that he has a mind to go home *Melancholy*. I wiſh the Gentleman may not be more Grave than Wiſe: For my own part, I muſt confeſs I think it very ſufficient to have the Anguiſh of a Tragitious Piece remain upon me while it is repreſenting, but I love to be ſent home to Bed in a good Humour. If *Phyſibulus* is however reſolved to be inconſolable, and not to have his Tears dried up, he need only continue his old Cuſtom, and when he has had his half Crowns worth of Sorrow, ſlink out before the Epilogue begins.

'It is pleaſant enough to hear this Tragical Genius complaining of the *great miſchief Andromache* had done him. What was that? Why, ſhe made him laugh. The poor Gentleman's Sufferings put me in mind of *Harlequin*'s Caſe, who was tickled to Death. He tells us ſoon after, thro' a ſmall Miſtake of Sorrow for Rage, that during the whole Action he was ſo very Sorry, that he thinks he could have attack'd *half a Score of the fierceſt Mohocks* in the exceſs of his Grief. I cannot but look upon it as an happy Accident, that a Man who is ſo bloody-minded in his Affliction, was diverted from this Fit of outragious Melancholy. The Valour of this Gentleman in his Diſtreſs, brings to ones Memory the *Knight of the Sorrowful Countenance*, who lays about him at ſuch an unmerciful rate in an old Romance. I ſhall readily

'grant

'grant him, that his Soul, as he himself says, *would have made a very ridiculous figure, had it quitted the Body, and descended to the Poetical Shades* in such an Encounter.

'As to his Conceit of tacking a *Tragic Head* with a *Comic Tail*, in order to *refresh the Audience*, it is such a Piece of *Jargon*, that I don't know what to make of it.

'The Elegant Writer makes a very sudden Transition from the Play-house to the Church, and from thence to the Gallows.

'As for what relates to the Church, he is of Opinion that these Epilogues have given occasion to those *merry Jiggs from the Organ-Loft, which have dissipated those good Thoughts and Dispositions he has found in himself, and the rest of the Pew, upon the singing of two Staves cull'd out by the judicious and diligent Clark.*

'He fetches his next Thought from *Tyburn*; and seems very apprehensive least there should happen any Innovations in the Tragedies of his Friend *Paul Lorrain.*

'In the mean time, Sir, this gloomy Writer, who is so mightily scandalized at a gay Epilogue after a serious Play, speaking of the Fate of those unhappy Wretches who are Condemned to suffer an Ignominious Death by the Justice of our Laws, endeavours to make the Reader merry on so improper an Occasion, by those poor Burlesque Expressions of *Tragical Drama's* and *Monthly Performances.*

I am, SIR,
with great Respect,
your most obedient,
most humble Servant,

Philomeides.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

By Her Majesty's Company of Comedians,

AT the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, this present Tuesday, the 1st Day of April, will be presented a Comedy call'd. The Silent Woman, Written by the Famous Ben. Johnson. By Her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

AT the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market, this present Tuesday, being the 1st of April, will be presented an Opera called *Rinaldo.* The Boxes 8 s. Pit 5 s. First Gallery 2 s. 6 d. Upper Gallery 1 s. 6 d. Boxes upon the Stage Half a Guinea. To begin exactly at six. By her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

A Voyage to the South Sea, and round the World, perform'd in the Ships Duke and Dutchess of Bristol, in the Years 1708, 1709, 1710 and 1711. Containing a Journal of all memorable Transactions during the said Voyage; the Winds, Currents and Variation of the Compass; the taking of the Towns of Puna and Guayaquil, and several Prizes, one of which is a rich Acapulco Ship. A Description of the American Coasts, from Tierra del Fuego in the South, to California in the North. (from the Coasting Pilot, a Spanish Manuscript.) An Historical Account of all those Countries from the best Authors. With a new Map and Description of the mighty River of the Amazons. Wherein an Account is given of Mr. Alexander Selkirk, his Manner of living and taming some wild Beasts during the four Years and four Months he lived upon the uninhabited Island of Juan Fernandez. Illustrated with Cuts and Maps: By Captain Edward Cooke. Printed for B. Lintott and R. Gosling in Fleetstreet, A. Bell sworn on London-bridge, and W. Innys in St. Paul's Church-yard.

This Day is Publish'd,

An Essay upon true Knowledge, and a Sound Judgment in Religion. By a Presbyter of the Church of England. Printed for, and sold by R. Smith in Exeter Exchange in the Strand. pr. 3 s.

This Day is Publish'd,

The Second Part of the Nation vindicated from the Aspersions cast on it, in a late Pamphlet, Entituled, A Representation of the Present State of Religion, with regard to the late excessive Growth of Infidelity, Heresie and Prophaneness. as it passed the Lower House of Convocation. With some Remarks on the Representation of the Irish Convocation. Printed for A. Baldwin at the Oxford Arms in Warwick lane, pr. 6 d. Where may be had the 1st Part, price 6 d.

A Catalogue of part of the Library of that late eminent Surgeon, Thomas Hobbes, M. D. containing a choice Collection of many valuable and rare Books in Physick, Surgery, Philosophy and Philology, in Greek, Latin, French and English, of the best Editions, (several Large Paper) most of the Classics in usum Delphini, of the Paris Edition, and several Variorums; for the most part curiously bound filleted, gilt or letter'd. Which, with many more not here mentioned, will begin to be sold at very reasonable Rates, (the Price being put in each Book) at the Rose Tavern without Temple Bar, on the 3d Instant, at 8 in the Morning. The Sale to continue two Days, and no longer. Catalogues are to be had of Mr. Stokoe against the Mewsgate; Mr. Brown at the Black Swan, and Mr. Mears at the Lamb without Temple-bar: Mr. Lewis in Russel-street, Covent Garden; Mr. Innys at the Prince's Arms in St. Paul's Church yard; Mr. Strahan in Cornhil, Booksellers; and at the Place of Sale.

To be Sold, the Manors of Southcave and Flaxfleet in Southcave, in the East-Riding of York, amounting to upwards of 400 l. p. r Annum. Enquire of Mr. John Greenwood, Attorney in Wood-street London, or Mr. Fran. Langley in York.

Mr. Van Nost's Collection of Plaister Figures and Models, of Flemingo, Algard, John de Bellone, the old and young Quellin; abundance of Models of Monuments and Figures of Mr. Van Nost, and other Eminent Masters; it being a large and most extraordinary Collection, will be Sold by Auction at his late Dwelling-House in Hide-Park Road, near the Queen's Mead House, where the Collection may be seen all this Week, and sold on Monday the 7th of April. The Sale will begin exactly at 4 in the Afternoon, and continue daily till all are sold, designing to sell 100 Lots every Evening. After this Sale the fine Marble Figures and Busto's, curious inlaid Marble Tables, Brass and Leaden Figures, very rich Vaules. N.B. For this Part of the Collection there will be Catalogues printed, and a low Price set to every thing, that the Widow may not run too great a Risque in things of this Consequence. The Pictures, Drawings, and Prints, will likewise be sold.

The most safe and profitable Sale of Numbers. Three Books were opened on Friday the 28th of March last, at the Golden Crown the upper end of Bow-street, Covent-Garden, for the Advantage of all Purchasers, who will receive Cent. per Cent. for all the Monies they advance, as by Proposals to be had gratis at the place aforesaid will appear. Attendance is given from 8 in the Morning to 12, and from 2 to 8 at Night. Note, That Memorandums will be given out to make Payment in four Weeks.

At the Bell in Henrietta-street, Covent-Garden, March the 4th. was opened an Office for the Sale of GLOVES, at three different Prices, viz. Childrens at 1 s. each pair, Womens at 2 s. 6 d. and Mens at 5 s. whereby any one may make Cent. per Cent. of their Mony in 4 or 5 Weeks time, and none will be longer than six Weeks before they receive the propos'd Advantage. Note, March 25th, was open'd a Book of Mens Gloves at 10 s. each Pair.

At the Sign of the Golden Head in Channel-row in Westminster, on Wednesday the 26th of March last, was opened an Office for improving of Mony; wherein the early Purchasers will receive great Advantages. Proposals at large may be had gratis at the Office aforesaid.

Whereas Gilbert Lacy, Linnen-Draper at the Golden Artichoak in Henrietta-street Covent Garden, is leaving off his business, this is to give Notice that he will dispose of his Goods at a low Rate, and the House and Shop to be Lett.

Dr. Byfield's Sal Oleosum Volatile; now publish'd by the Authority of her Majesty's most gracious Letters Patent under the Great Seal of Great Britain, is dispensed and sold by Wholesale and Retail at his House in Salisbury Court near Fleetstreet; where some Account of its Nature and Use in Diet, Medicine, and as to Wines and other spirituous Liquors, may be had gratis, and Encouragement given to Exporters and Retailers.

These are to give Notice, That at the Glass-Lanthorn in Plough-Yard in Gray's-Inn-Lane, still lives Susanna Kirkeus, the Daughter of that Eminent Dr. Tho. Kirkeus, (who was a Sworn Physician to K. Charles II &c.) who with his famous Pills and Drink cures the Secret Disease, and all Ulcers, Sores, Swellings, Kings Evil, Scabs Itch, Scarfs, Scurveys, and Leprosies, though never so great, without hindering Business, or the Use of Mercury, which destroys many; and cures any who send their Grief and Age without seeing them, having had above 20 Years Experience in the Doctor's Life time. The Drink is 9 s. the Quart, the Pills 2 s. the Box. She gives her Advice in Dispapers, to all that write or come to her, gratis, and deals with all Persons according to their Abilities.

Mr. Paul Girard, at the 3 Flower de Luces, in Charing-Cross near Northumberland-House, hath lately received from a Friend of his in Italy, a small Quantity of very rich Distilled Waters, made by Monsieur Ribaut, Distiller to his Royal Highness the Duke of Savoy. Every Chest containing 24 Bottles (3 of which is a full Quart) and consists only of the 4 most Select Sorts (i. e.) Millefleur, Orangiat, Burgamot, and Perfect, they are all of a double Spirit, and drawn off in the same manner as the Citron Water of Barbadoes, which they excel in every Quality, and may be seen every Day at the House of the said Mr. Paul Girard, and are sold by him in order for a quick Sale only at 3 Guineas per Chest. N. B. There hath been none of this in England, except in Presents, these 5 Years past.

LONDON: Printed for *Sam. Buckley*, at the *Dolphin* in *Little-Britain*; and Sold by *A. Baldwin* in *Warwick-Lane*; where Advertisements are taken in: as also by *Charles Lillie*, Perfumer, at the Corner of *Beauford-Buildings* in the *Strand*.